

March 2016

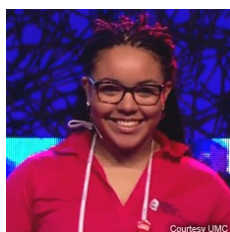
# The Inner Circle

First United Methodist Church of Downers Grove

## Focus on Women, Children & Youth

From its beginning, United Methodist Women has focused on ministries with women, children, and youth.

<p><b>Sarah Circle</b> 7:00pm <b><u>Room 213</u></b></p> <p>Mar. 03/21 Apr. 04/25</p>	<p><b>Mary Elizabeth Circle-1:00pm</b> <b><u>Chapel Hall</u></b></p> <p>Mar. 03/23 Apr. 04/27</p>	<p><b>Rachel Circle</b> 9:00am <b><u>Room 213</u></b></p> <p>Mar. 03/24 Apr. 04/28</p>	<p><b>Ruth Circle</b> 12:45pm <b><u>Chapel Hall</u></b></p> <p>Mar. 03/24 Apr. 04/28</p>	<p><b>Joanna Circle</b> 11:00 a.m. <b><u>Chapel Hall</u></b></p> <p>Mar. 03/20 Apr. 04/17</p>
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### **A Limitless Legacy** by Aerial Murphy

My United Methodist Women story begins at 6 weeks old at Young Harris College. That's when I attended my first Spiritual Life Retreat with my grandmother and my mom. At the time, my mom was the first African-American president of the Gainesville District United Methodist Women in Georgia. The ladies lavished me with gifts, including my first Special Mission Recognition pin, which was a silver 25th anniversary pin. I did not know I would be a United Methodist Women member for the rest of my life. Almost everywhere I go I meet someone with a United Methodist Women connection. I always feel welcome and like I have a place at the table.

In 2012, I attended United Methodist Women's national Limitless: Redefine Tomorrow event for young women at Duke University. We talked about ways to build young women leadership and strategized how to develop a core group of young women leaders because in the 21st century women still need to organize for mission.

### **Interacting With Women of All Ages**

My United Methodist Women community allows me to interact with women of all ages. North Georgia Conference United Methodist Women makes a specific effort to include young women on all levels of the organization. Our young women's Limitless group meets just prior to our Conference Executive team and a representative shares our concerns. We are working toward having representatives on each Conference committee. Our format allows young and older women to talk before, during and after the meeting.

United Methodist Women challenges you and expands your capacity to serve. I recently took the role of getting T-shirts made for my conference United Methodist Women in 2014. It was a challenge to get the correct orders from more than 100 women in all 12 districts. But with the help of my supportive community, I got the shirts designed, ordered, money exchanged and delivered to everyone. And, we were very fashionable in our matching shirts at the United Methodist Women's 2014 quadrennial national Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky!

United Methodist Women stretched me again when I traveled to Seoul, South Korea, to study Peace and Cyber Peace at the [Scranton Women's Leadership Center](#), one of United Methodist Women's many mission partners. While in Seoul, we also did some traditional mission work by volunteering with Vacation Bible School and a community gardening program.

United Methodist Women members are not limited by the bounds of a country or age or ideas. I am excited because United Methodist Women's mission impact is everywhere! People recognize United Methodist Women: Our brand is respected, world inspected and Holy Ghost protected! To anyone who asks, "Why is she still with United Methodist Women?" I say because United Methodist Women rocks!

## Dorothy Ravenhorst and the Charter For Racial Justice

During the time that the [Charter for Racial Justice](#) was being created, our very own Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS) members in Virginia were divided about whether or not "separate but equal" schools were really equal; about whether or not blacks deserved the same rights as whites or whether schools should be integrated. In 1952, the U.S. Supreme Court had cases that challenged racial segregation in public schools. There were five cases in total. The Supreme Court consolidated the cases under one — Oliver Brown et al vs. the Board of Education. When the justices ruled in favor of desegregating our nation's public schools, many in Virginia decided to take the matter into their own hands.

In 1954 U.S. Senator Harry F. Byrd promoted the "Southern Manifesto." He was able to get more than one hundred southern congressmen to sign. And on February 25, 1956, Virginia adopted a group of laws called Massive Resistance. Its intent was to prevent the integration of public schools. So, white families who didn't want their children to go to school with black children were given grants to go to private schools. Many public schools closed, leaving black children without a place to go for education. This went on for several years, and nearly a generation of black children went without proper primary and secondary education.

### **The Charter for Racial Justice**

It was during this turbulent time in May 1965 that our conference president, Margaret (Peg) Tyrrell decided to bring the Charter for Racial Justice forward to our Virginia annual meeting. She took a great risk trying to get it adopted at this time when so many were divided about segregation and integrated schools in Virginia.

Although I learned later that the conference officers had previously adopted the charter, I believe the general membership did not have an inkling beforehand that there was such a thing as the Charter for Racial Justice — much less that it would be presented for vote. Understanding this, Peg Tyrrell, being not only courageous but smart, wanted to present the Charter herself. Knowing that the presiding officer could not speak for or against an issue on the floor, Peg stepped down, handing her duties to the vice president in order to present the charter herself and argue for its passage.

There were over 1,300 present at the meeting, including guests and visitors, but only 439 voting delegates. Peg made a persuasive and passionate presentation using her best theology (as well as her dramatic skills!) and the vice president was able to handle the hub-bub that followed as members asked what it would mean to their family, their schools, their churches. After much discussion, the vote was taken and it carried by more than two-thirds.

As a white woman with three children in public schools and two in college at the time, I remember being so proud to be a member of the WSCS that had made such a bold step toward racial justice despite resistance. And I was so proud of our conference president Peg Tyrrell who led us on the right side of history. After that, I felt I could stand on Peg's shoulders and fight for what I believed in.

*By Dorothy Ravenhorst*





# Sisterhood

*Christian Community*



**Monday,  
March 21st**

**7:00 p.m.  
in the  
church gym**



**Discussion facilitators:**

**Cindi Roselieb and Maggie Roth**

As United Methodist Women, a key focus of our Purpose is to "develop a creative supportive fellowship." Join us for a fun and interactive evening as we dig a little deeper into the topics of Connection, Sisterhood and Christian community.

**YOUR**



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

**April 23, 2016**  
**New Lenox United Methodist Church**  
**339 W. Haven Ave.**

**New Lenox, Il. 60451**



**Dr. Regina Davis Bridges, Deacon**

**Guest Speaker**

9:15-9:40	Gathering Music & Announcements Devotions: Lana Stafford Response Moment & Book Review: Julia Jones
9:40-10:40	Dr. Regina Davis Bridges
10:45-11:00	Break
11:00-12:00	Worship, Memorial Service, Communion

**Registration Fee is \$5.00 – Checks payable to “Aurora District UMW”**

Send registration by April 20, 2015 to

Susan Tyree Kline

339 W. Haven Dr.

New Lenox, 60451 or email at [sltk1@hotmail.com](mailto:sltk1@hotmail.com)

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**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Child Care (number of children & ages) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

## **Ruth Circle**—women of all ages—childcare provided upon request

**Meets in Chapel Hall- 4th Thursday 12:45 pm**

Our February meeting focused on Prayer and Self Denial, as Verla led from the UMW Program Book. There were 11 present, and we were so glad to see Leanne Rolfe among us after her recent health concerns. Our thoughts were with Caroline Bertolino, who was recovering from surgery. In honor of Black History Month, Shelly Davenport highlighted some little-known facts about the African-American population from Response. Jennifer Segrest shared wonderful devotions and read the birthdays from the UMW Prayer Calendar.

At our March 24th meeting, Pastor Greta will join us and lead the program, TBD. Then, on April 28th, we will learn about a very special outreach program right here in Downers Grove. The founder of Watts of Love will tell us about her effort to provide solar lighting to the darkest corners of the world and will tell us how we can get involved. Ruth Circle would like to invite all UMW members and interested friends to attend. Please mark your calendars!!

*Circle Coordinator— Julie Stone*

## **Mary Elizabeth Circle**— mostly women of grown children—childcare provided upon request

**Meets in Chapel Hall-4th Wednesday 1:00pm**

Twelve of us met Feb. 24th. Our hostess's served an awesome Chocolate Cherry cake made from a receipt from the old UMW cookbook. We welcomed our guest Kathy Kreps. Jean Bahler led our program called "Joyful Hunger Pangs." We discussed where our pledge monies went and the help available for the hungry. Our collection this month went to the Westmont PRC. We donated 928 diapers valued at \$225.00. Our March collection will be for Prayer and Self-Denial. We signed up to help on "World Thank Offering" Sunday. UMW helps at all three services on Mothers Day. Everyone was reminded to attend our 1st general meeting on March 21st and our 1st fun raiser on March 28th at Home Run Pizza.

Our next meeting is March 23rd.

*Circle Coordinator—Joan Van Order*



## **Joanna Circle**—young ladies in 6th through 12th grades

**Meets in Chapel Hall - 3rd Sunday 11:00 am**

We will meet again Sunday, March 20th at 11:00 a.m. in Chapel Hall. We will be discussing prayer and making prayer beads. Please join us!

*Co-Circle Coordinators— Shelly Davenport and Julie Stone*

### **PWP Rotation**

January—Ruth

April—Sarah

July—need volunteers please!

February—Mary Elizabeth

May—Ruth and Mary Elizabeth

August—need volunteers please!

March—Rachel

June—Rachel and Sarah

## Purchase With a Purpose

March came in like a lion, let's hope it goes out like a lamb! If you're like me you are ready for Spring to be here so that you can get on with all those outdoor projects. Stop by the Purchase with a Purpose table in the Parlor on Sunday and see if you can use gift cards to purchase supplies. If you are buying new clothes or shoes we often have a gift card to the store of your choice. When you shop at Kohl's you can charge your purchases to your store card then use gift cards to pay your bill. Manna offers gift cards for airlines, car rental and hotels. Visit [www.mannagroup.net](http://www.mannagroup.net) to see what's available before you book your trip.

Every Sunday we have Amazon, Home Depot, iTunes, Jewel, Kohl's, Meijer, Panera Bread, Speedway Gas, Starbuck's, Target, Ultra Foods, Walgreens, and Downers Grove Downtown Dollars ready to pick up at the table in the Parlor. Orders are placed on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month through June then the 2nd and 4th Sundays through November.

Talk to Ina about ordering online from home at [www.MannaOrders.net](http://www.MannaOrders.net) or using the Benefit Mobile APP on your smart phone. Thank you for supporting this fundraiser and making a difference in the lives of women and children everywhere.

In honor of long time member Aileen McDole, Ruth circle purchased four books for the UMW book cart; *House Of Purple Cedar* by Tim Tingle, *Coaltown Jesus* by Ron Koetge, *Lean In: Women, Work and the Will to Lead* by Sheryl Sandberg, and *Because I am Girl: I Can Change the World* by Rosemary McCarney. Find these books and many others in the church library, room 116, on the UMW book cart.

### **Rachel Circle**—mostly mother's of young children—childcare always provided **Meets in Rm. 213 - 4th Thursday 9:00 am**

The Rachel Circle gathered this month to discuss prayer and it's impact. Maggie Roth led the program discussion. We watched a Nooma video on the topic and had a discussion, then we created our own prayer bead bracelets, following the template by Bishop Sally Dyck. We concluded with a group prayer. The group also discussed General Meeting arrangements and committed to providing juice boxes for the church's upcoming Blessing Bag efforts.

*Circle Coordinator— Maggie Roth*

### **Sarah Circle**—mostly working women—no childcare available **Meets in the Room 213—4th Monday 7:00pm**

The Sarah circle met on Monday February 22nd at the church with ten ladies in attendance. Gretchen presented a section of the Call to Prayer and Self denial. The theme this year is "Women at Work, Economic Justice and Empowerment." She read a passage from Jeremiah that called for community action to bring about social justice . The passage also included an example of faith in action, a Sunday community meal and evening worship called Grace Café. Ina led us in a Lectico Divina prayer exercise based on a hymn written by Charles Wesley, "Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown." She also presented a video of the hymn being sung along with Lenten themed images.

Sarah and Rachel circles are co-hosting the March General meeting. This will be the March meeting for Sarah circle. The program will be presented by Maggie Roth and Cindi Roselieb.

Circle Coordinator— Gretchen Shearer



*Save the date!*

## **Mission u:**

Learning Together for the Transformation of the World

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

**Summer 2016**

**One Day Mission u Event** Saturday, July 9, 2016, (8:00 registration - 4:00)

First United Methodist Church, 100 West Cossitt Avenue, La Grange, IL 60525

Sessions on that day and the study leader:

English Language Classes, a "mission sampler"— a "taste" of all three studies:

Spiritual Growth: *The Bible and Human Sexuality: Claiming God's Good Gift*,  
Rev. Dr. Norval I. Brown

Global Focus: *Latin America: People and Faith*, Roger Curless

Social Issue: *Climate Justice: Call to Hope and Action*,  
Peggy Hansen, Diana Davis

Korean Language Classes: *The Bible and Human Sexuality: Claiming God's Good Gift*,  
Leader TBA

*Climate Justice: Call to Hope and Action*, Jung Ja Kim

Spanish Language Classes: *The Bible and Human Sexuality: Claiming God's Good Gift*, Gladys De Quiñones

*Climate Justice: Call to Hope and Action*, Liseth Lopez

Children's Class (ages 7-11): *God's Extravagant Garden: Climate Justice*, Joy Hayag

Class for Youth (ages 12-15): *Joining Voices for Climate Justice*, Rev. Dr. Harriette Cross

**Weekend Mission u Event** Thursday, July 14 (3:30 registration) –  
**Sunday, July 17, 2016** (1:00 pm)

Camp Reynoldswood, 621 Reynoldswood Rd, Dixon, IL 61021  
(Hotel accommodation options being arranged)

Studies and the study leader:

Spiritual Growth Study: *The Bible and Human Sexuality: Claiming God's Good Gift*,  
Rev. Dr. Norval I. Brown

Plus a choice of:

Global Focus Study: *Latin America: People and Faith*, Roger Curless

Social Issue: *Climate Justice: Call to Hope and Action*  
Peggy Hansen, Diana Davis

Watch for more information including a registration form that will be coming soon.

We hope to see you at Mission u!

Dean: Linda Priest

Assistant Dean: Robbie Moultrie



### **Stay Connected! Keep in Touch!**

Browse the United Methodist Women website - [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org)

UMW Mission Resources website: <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umw/resources>

DGFUMC website: <http://www.dgfumc.org>

FUMCUMW website: <http://www.dgfumc.org/fellowship/umw>

UMC General Board of Church and Society Faith in Action website:

<http://www.umc-gbcs.org/site/c.frLJK2PKLqF/b.2798475/k.7A8F Faith in Action.htm>

Facebook: group is called [United Methodist Women of DGFUMC](#)—find us and ask to join, then invite your friends to join.

Aurora District Facebook group is called [Aurora District UMW—Illinois](#)—find us and ask to join, then invite your friends to join.

### **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

#### **(mark your CALENDARS!)**

Mar. 21	General Meeting Host's—Sarah and Rachel Circle	7:00 p.m.
Apr. 23	Aurora District Meeting New Lenox UMC	8:30 a.m.
May 5 May 8	Leadership Team World Thank Offering Sunday	9:00 a.m.
July 9	Mission u one day event Lagrange UMC	8:30 a.m.
July 14-17	Mission u Camp Reynoldswood, Dixon, Illinois	
Aug. 28	Children's Sunday Blessing of the Backpacks	

Submit articles to Shelly Davenport at [sdavenportarch@gmail.com](mailto:sdavenportarch@gmail.com) or (630) 512-0370